

 King County	Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention Adult Divisions General Policy Manual		
	Chapter 7 Inmate Services		
7.01.005, Medical and Psychiatric Housing	Approved By:	Director Allen Nance	
	Effective Date:	April 12, 2023	
	Reviewed By:	PRC JHS Dr. Quirk, Dr. Sanders	
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Purpose

To establish a protocol for appropriately housing inmates with medical and psychiatric needs.

Policy

The department is committed to appropriately housing inmates who have medical and psychiatric needs.

References

NCCHC Standards for Health Services in Jails

Department Policies: 6.01.005, Inmate Classification and Assessment
 6.03.003, Critical Inmate Placement
 7.02.006, Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Department Forms: Medical/Psychiatric Transfer Form (F-572)
 Immediate Transfer/Housing Alert (F-571)

Definitions

Infirmary: A housing unit where 24-hour nursing care is provided to inmates with acute, chronic, and convalescent health problems, which do not require hospitalization.

Psychiatric Housing Unit: A housing unit for individuals determined by Jail Health Services (JHS) to be unable to function in general population with a significant mental disorder, the symptoms which result in serious impairment in adaptive functioning and may include a safety risk for the individual and/or others.

Special Needs Treatment Plan (SNTF): A plan of care developed by Jail Health Staff for the management of inmates with special medical and/or psychiatric care needs.

Suicide Prevention Watch Team Meeting: A daily multidisciplinary meeting consisting of JHS, uniformed staff, CPS or other staff to review the status of inmates in close observation (15-minute checks) or on constant watch.

Medical Provider: A JHS physician or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP).

Psychiatric Evaluation Specialist (PES): A JHS licensed counselor working under this title.

Psychiatric Provider: A JHS Psychiatrist or psychiatric ARNP.

Immediate Transfer Form (F-571): A form used to document a critical change in inmate housing assignment made by a staff member other than Classification staff.

Medical/Psychiatric Transfer Form (F-572): A form used to request that classification make a non-critical change in inmate housing assignments within medical or psychiatric housing units or from medical or psychiatric housing units to the jail's general population (GP).

A. General Guidelines

1. All designated medical and psychiatric housing units are dedicated posts and shall have uniformed staff present at all times.
2. Jail Health Services (JHS) shall be responsible for transfers in and out of the designated medical and psychiatric housing units. For critical inmate placement concerns in the absence of a CPS follow Department policy 6.03.003, Critical Inmate Placement.
3. When possible, an inmate should be reviewed during the Suicide Prevention Watch Team Meeting prior to being released from close observation or constant watch.
4. The decision to release an inmate from close observation or constant watch is a clinical decision made by JHS psychiatric staff.
5. Specific housing placements into and out of medical or psychiatric housing will be decided upon by classification or operations staff, with consultation from JHS, and shall be based upon the inmate's security level and classification history.
6. Medical personnel should be in the Infirmary unit. If uniformed staff arrive on post and medical staff are not present, call the JHS charge nurse for clarification.
7. When the air pressure in the negative air flow isolation rooms is checked by the building engineer the Officer will log the dorm, date and time in the Infirmary JMS Shift Log.

B. Procedure

1. Transfer to the Infirmary or Medical Housing Units

- a. Admission to the Infirmary or other medical housing shall be determined by JHS. Inmates who are housed in the Infirmary may require:
 - 1) Health care supervision for acute alcohol or drug withdrawal.
 - 2) Certain types of isolation housing due to infectious disease.
 - 3) 24-hour nursing availability, as determined by JHS.
- b. Uniformed Staff shall consult with JHS when an inmate appears to need medical housing.
 - 1) JHS shall determine appropriate health care needs.
 - 2) An inmate may be transferred to different housing based on a JHS evaluation.
- c. Those medical inmates whose behavior or medical needs prohibit group housing but still require frequent nursing care may be housed in the infirmary when other housing alternatives are not available.

2. Transfer to Psychiatric Housing Units

- a. Transfers to a psychiatric housing unit shall be at the direction of JHS.
- b. Uniformed staff shall follow their training and policy 7.02.006, Suicide Prevention and Intervention if they identify an inmate who may be experiencing emotional distress or be potentially suicidal.

3. Release and Housing Unit Transfer

Only JHS can clear an inmate from psychiatric or medical housing.

- a. Inmates housed in psychiatric housing that are being released from DAJD custody into the community must have a release interview conducted by PES staff prior to release, following policy 5.04.007, Releases.
 - 1) As part of the release process, Release Officers will check the JMS Subject Record for JMS Alerts relating to psychiatric housing.
- b. A transfer from medical or psychiatric housing to another housing unit shall be authorized by JHS.